Tracking COVID-19 for Safer Schools¹
Preliminary Study Results and Key Findings

1. KEY RESULTS

Participants
Of enrolled school staff, 78% worked in classrooms, and 1,556 (92.1%) had their blood tested for antibodies (serology test)

1,689
Vancouver Public School Staff

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<tr>
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<th>ELEMENTARY</th>
<th>SECONDARY</th>
<th>BOTH (Elementary and Secondary)</th>
<th>OTHER (e.g. district office)</th>
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<td></td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>3%</td>
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What is Serology?

• The serology test used in this study detects antibodies against the “S” protein that is part of the virus and included in COVID-19 vaccines. In individuals who had been vaccinated, we also used a serology test to detect the “N” protein that is unique to the virus.

• This dual testing allows detection of COVID-19 infections prior to the beginning of the school year in September 2020, while excluding antibodies produced after the COVID-19 vaccine.

• In the study, the serology test was positive in nearly all staff who had COVID-19 (>95%), demonstrating that this testing approach was very good at detecting past infections.

¹This study is funded by the Government of Canada via its COVID-19 Immunity Task Force

Serology (antibody) tests use a sample of blood to check for antibodies produced by the body after exposure to the COVID-19 virus. A positive result means that a person was previously infected with the virus.
Despite a high rate of reported exposure to COVID-19 cases, the rate of COVID-19 infections among school staff (detected by sensitive serology testing) was the same as the rate found in the local community.

This study suggests that school staff did not experience a greater risk from COVID-19 than the general population with the measures implemented by schools during the 2020-21 school year.

Results will be shared more broadly and published in scientific journals after a peer-review process.

Participants will be contacted for further serology and questionnaire in the Fall.

Our team has collected data on close contacts of COVID-19 cases to further investigate positivity rates among students and staff. Stay tuned!

For more information please visit: https://www.bcchr.ca/COVIDatschools or contact the study Principal Investigators, Pascal Lavoie or Louise Mâsse at: abcovid@bcchr.ca

*adjusted for the sensitivity and specificity of the serology test, as of May 15, 2021; 
*more details in full scientific article currently undergoing scientific peer-review